

Proposed Amendments to H B 566:

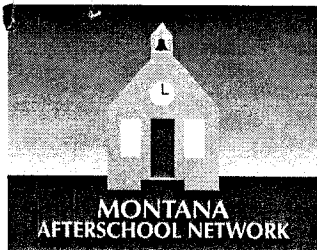
Under NEW SECTION Section 2. – Afterschool Program Grants - subsection (1) – second sentence should read: The department shall use \$375,000 of the allocated funds to.....

Under NEW SECTION Section 5 – Resource Reviews - The first sentence should read **The Montana Afterschool Network...** instead of Afterschool program participants.

Under NEW SECTION Section 6 – Quality Standards - first sentence should read **“The Montana Afterschool Network”....** instead of Afterschool program participants.

Under NEW SECTION Section 7 – Technical Assistance – first sentence should read **“The Montana Afterschool Network”....** instead of Afterschool program participants.

In the “Whereas” statements on line 4, page 2 of the bill the following needs to be corrected for the record. **The Flagship Program is a program of Western Montana Addiction Services** – not the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Montana – so please correct that language.



**Working Together to
Increase the
Availability & Quality
of Afterschool
Opportunities
Statewide**

The Montana Afterschool Network is coordinated by the Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network and includes these partners:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana
Girl Scouts Clubs of Montana
Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation
Junior Achievement Programs of Montana
Montana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Montana Board of Crime Control
Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Montana Council Boy Scouts of America
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services: ECSB
MEA-MFT
Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development
Montana Office of Public Instruction: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Montana Parent Teacher Association
Montana Parks and Recreation Association
Montana School Boards Association
Montana State University Early Childhood Project
School Administrators of Montana
The Flagship Program

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Legislative Testimony on HB 566

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Suzin Kratina and I represent the Montana Afterschool Network, a coalition of 17 (seventeen) public and private partners working together to increase the availability and quality of afterschool opportunities across the state. This coalition formed to address the lack of access to and availability of afterschool programs statewide.

I would like to offer these amendments to strengthen the bill (or: I would like to support the amendments introduced by Rep. Hollenbaugh.). Proposed Amendments to H B 566:

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Some startling statistics about Montana’s children and youth:

- ❖ 1 in 4 Montana children have no adult supervision when they come home from school. This translates to almost 36,000 Montana children and youth who are home without an adult.
- ❖ 8 out of 10 of Montana’s elementary-aged children from working families do not have a daily afterschool program available to them.

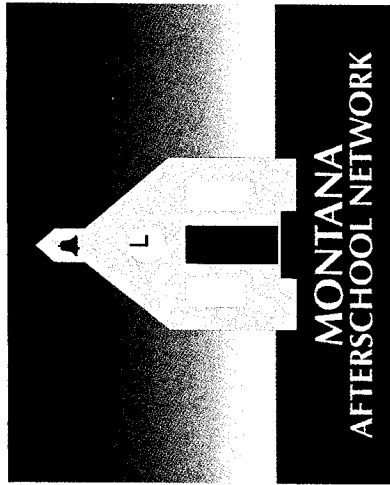
As a parent, I’ll be the first to agree that the care of children is the family’s responsibility but we need to be responsive to the fact that almost 7 out 10 Montana children come from working families. The gap between work and school schedules challenges these parents to find a safe place for their children after school.

Afterschool programs meet a critical need for children, families and communities.

- ❖ Afterschool programs keep kids safe. Between 3 and 6 pm, Montana children and youth are three times more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, be in or cause a car crash and engage in sexual activity. It's a fact that afterschool programs reduce risky behavior by engaging students in meaningful activities. National research shows that for every dollar invested in afterschool produces a savings of \$3 in reduced juvenile justice costs. Havre, for example, has seen a dramatic reduction in juvenile crime since opening its Boys & Girls Club.
- ❖ Afterschool programs turn risk into opportunity. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana and Montana 4H programs report that their participants are 46% less likely to use drugs or engage in risky behavior than peers who are not involved in mentoring or youth development programs after school. In fact afterschool participants are more likely to have a sense of belonging in their community, a resiliency factor that prevents risky behavior.
- ❖ Afterschool programs inspire learning by providing Montana students with the additional academic supports they need to succeed. Regular attendees of the Montana 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs show a 53% improvement in reading scores and 52% in math. In addition, teachers reported significant improvement in behavior such as turning homework in on time, class participation, motivation to learn and getting along well with other students.

These are important outcomes and opportunities for Montana's children and youth. House Bill 566 not only provides much needed funding to help sustain these important programs, this bill would help increase the effectiveness of afterschool programs through evaluation tools, quality standards and technical assistance to program staff, work the Montana Afterschool Network (MAN) continues to do in support of afterschool programs statewide. Because of MAN's leadership access and availability to afterschool programs 4 to 5 days a week has increased from 12 ½ % in 2002 to 18% in 2006 to children with all available parents in the workforce.

Afterschool is not an afterthought – Afterschool needs to be a state-level priority. On behalf of the thousands of Montana's children and youth without a safe place to go after school, I ask you to vote in favor of House Bill 566. Thank you.



Working together to
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During the 2005-2006 school year, there were no daily afterschool programs for 82% of Montana's elementary-aged children from working families.

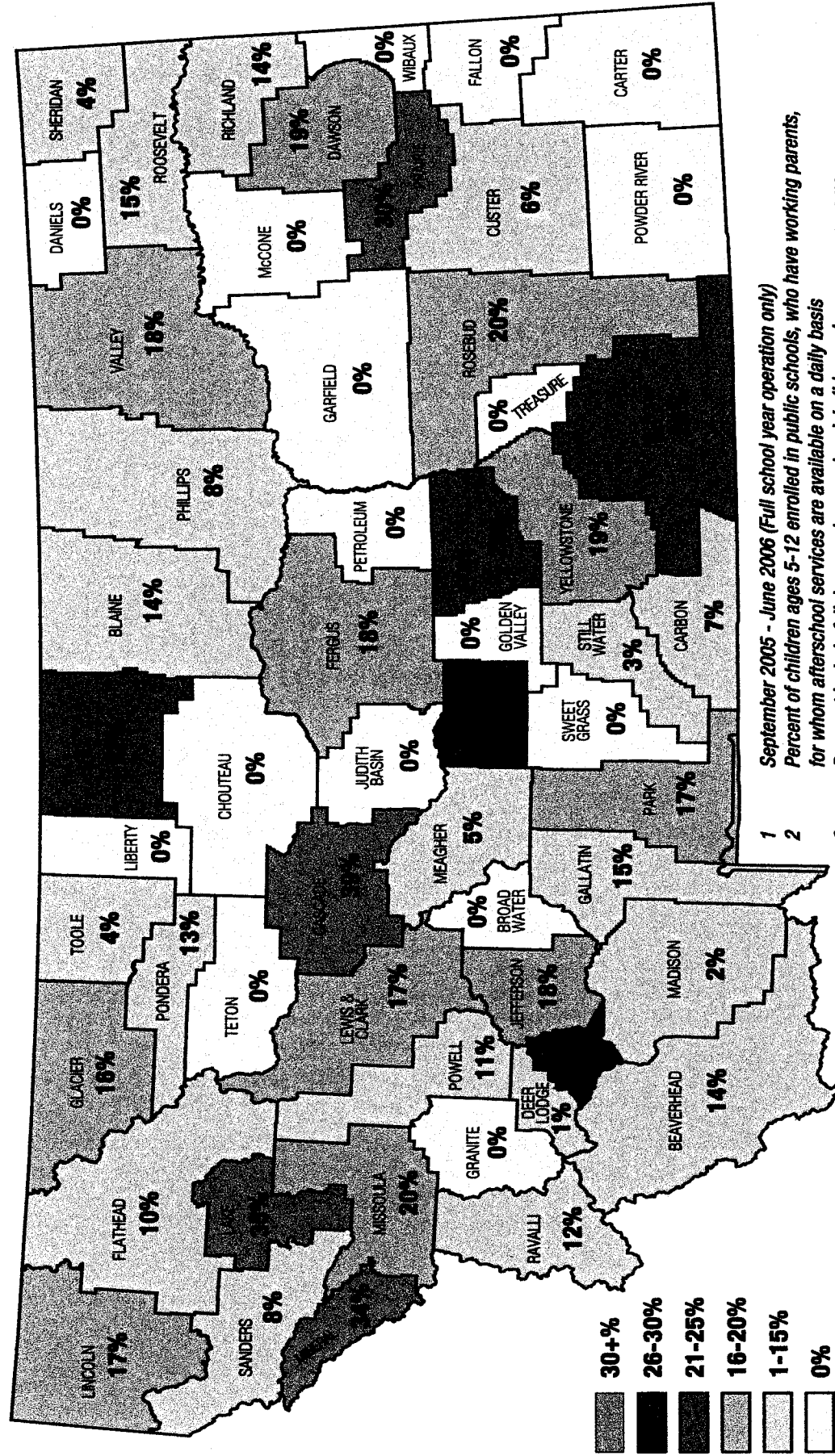
(Montana Afterschool Network, 2006)

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN AFTERSCHOOL!

Afterschool Opportunities...

- Keep Kids Safe
- Help Working Families
- Inspire Learning
- Promote Community Involvement
- Meet Children's Social & Emotional Needs
- Promote Physical Activities

2005-2006¹ MONTANA AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE CAPACITY²⁻⁴



- 1 September 2005 - June 2006 (Full school year operation only)
- 2 Percent of children ages 5-12 enrolled in public schools, who have working parents, for whom afterschool services are available on a daily basis
- 3 Does not include full day, evening, weekend, holiday and summer programs
- 4 Represents daily capacity, rather than enrollment